

1725/IFW



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 21, 2007

Applicants: Yutaka MIYAMOTO et al  
For: BUTT WELDING APPARATUS AND BUTT WELDING METHOD  
Serial No.: 10/523 579                      Group: 1725  
Confirmation No.: 1367  
Filed: January 28, 2005                      Examiner: Kerns  
International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/007743  
International Filing Date: May 28, 2004  
Atty. Docket No.: 2114.P0012US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Sir:

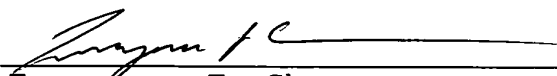
In response to the Patent Office Action dated November 21, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

(Please see following pages.)

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on February 21, 2007.

  
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Terryence F. Chapman